

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2001

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with its weekly news bulletin. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

Here are the headlines of today's news:

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RADIO AMATEURS OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations for the Radio Amateur of the Year Awards are invited from clubs and individual Amateurs. The awards are sponsored by Siemens and administered by the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust and are awarded in two categories: Radio Amateur of the Year and Young Radio Amateur of the Year. The Radio Amateur of the Year Award is an open category while the Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award is restricted to persons under 25 years old. Each recipient will receive a R1000 award and a certificate.

The awards are made in recognition of a major contribution made to amateur radio and not for personal achievements such as DXCC or operating awards. The contribution to amateur radio could be on a technical or promotional level.

Last year the Radio Amateur of the Year Award was bestowed jointly on Peter Hers ZS6PHD for his continued innovation on the SARL Web and Chris Gryffenberg ZS6COG for his work amongst the youth on the East Rand. Peter Black ZR5DWC received the Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award for his promotion efforts amongst young people and technical innovation such as APRS.

Nomination forms are available on the SARL Web or can be requested by fax by sending an Email to armi@intekom.co.za or fax to 012 9915651. The closing date for nominations is 15 November 2001

SARL INTECNETS RETURN

From November this year INTECNET will return. This follows a sponsorship from Telkom which will cover the costs incurred in linking the various sites and the link to the speakers. Sentech has agreed to continue providing the 3215 kHz transmission. Details of the first Intecnet of the new series will be announced next weekend.

The sponsorship by both Sentech and Telkom also ensures that Amateur Radio Mirror International will be able to main its transmission on 3215 kHz on Monday evenings and 9750 and 21560 kHz on Sunday mornings. The SARL recognises Telkom and Sentech for their support of the Amateur Radio Service.

WEEK PASS FOR ITU TELECOM AFRICA 2001

The SARL has a limited number of passes available, which give entrance to the ITU Telecom Africa 2001 exhibition at Gallagher Estate. Passes can be collected at the National Amateur Radio Centre daily between 09:00 – 13:00 or may be obtained by sending a Self Addressed Stamped envelope to the SARL at P O BOX 1721 STRUBENSVALLEI 1735. Passes can also be obtained by registering on the web: www.itu.int/africa2001. Registrations before 10 November are free.

SARL MEET WITH ICASA EXECUTIVE

On Friday a three man SARL delegation met with the ICASA Executive Committee and made a presentation on the value Amateur Radio adds to the country as a national resource. “The meeting was very fruitful”, SARL President Hans Potgieter said. A number initiatives were discussed which will now require follow- up with various groups in ICASA. ICASA s legal Executive confirmed that the changes to the regulations are with the Minister for signature and that the matter was raised at the ICASA/DOC weekly liaison meeting with a request to impress on the Minister the urgency of the matter , he said.

NEXT WEEK S RAE

The SARL wishes success to the 138 RAE candidates next Thursday evening.

Candidates are reminded to ensure beforehand that they know where the examination centers are located. The examinations start punctually at 19:00. It is recommended that candidates report already at 18:30.

Each candidate must bring along his/her examination number, ID Document and pen. Non-programmable pocket calculators will also be allowed.

Candidates must also remember to hand in a completed licence application form during the examination.

ANTENNAS and THE LAW

Remember to book your seat now for the lecture on Antennas and the Law which will be delivered by Tim Ellam VE6SH, one of the IARU Experts at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Wednesday 14 November at 18:30 for 19:00.

Please book your seat by sending an Email to armi@intekom.co.za or a fax to 012 991 5651. It will help the organisers with arrangements and the serving of light snacks. There is no charge for this SARL event.

NEW THREAT TO AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM

In America the FCC has proposed changes to its Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices that would allow operation of advanced RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz. By going along with a request made earlier this year by SAVI Technology Inc and fiercely opposed by ARRL, the FCC has set the stage for another battle between amateur and commercial interests.

The League pointed out in its earlier comments that the Communications Act of 1934 (interesting!) lacks authority to allow unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential. "Such devices must be licensed," the ARRL concluded. Unlicensed Part 15 devices must not interfere with licensed services and must tolerate interference received from licensed radio services in the same band.

MICHIGAN SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS MAKE "GREAT CONNECTION" WITH ISS

Youngsters at The Holy Spirit School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently quizzed International Space Station crew chief Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, on a variety of topics. The ham radio contact October 5 was arranged through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program.

It took a couple of tries for a successful QSO. A direct contact with the ISS was not possible, so the Holy Spirit contact ultimately was handled via a WorldCom telephone linkup with Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa. Well done and many thanks Gerald!

MINI-INDABA

Clubs are reminded to submit suitable dates for the holding of a mini-Indaba to Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ soonest by fax or e-mail.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR RADIO ZS

Die editor of Radio ZS needs help with the production of the SARL s magazine.

The first need is for a circulation manager. This volunteer will be expected to take responsibility for fetching Radio ZS from the printers, arrange for address labels to be printed and checked, fill the envelopes and have the magazine bulk-mailed.

The SARL has systems and staff in place to do all this, what is needed is someone to co-ordinate and take responsibility for the total process.

The second need is for an advertising manager. This person or persons will be expected to obtain advertisements for publication in Radio ZS. Advertising is very important for keeping down the cost of Radio ZS and is also an important source of information for readers.

If you can help with this, please contact Fritz Sutherland at (012) 997 1114 or 083 304 0028, or send an e-mail to zs6asf@icon.co.za. Both these numbers and the e-mail address also appear on page one of Radio ZS.

CLUB NEWS

RUSTENBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AGM

The Rustenburg Amateur Radio Club will be holding its AGM at the Protea Park primary school on 27 October at 15:00.

As usual the meeting will be followed by a nice social. Those interested in attending are requested to book since the club will provide the eats and they must know for how many to cater. They do however request that the ladies of the club please bring a salad.

Please also bring along your own RF.

To make a reservation please contact OM Hans, ZS6ALJ

WEST RAND BOOT SALE

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will have a boot sale at their clubhouse in Kroton Ave, Weltevredenpark on Saturday 27 th October 2001. The gates will open at 12 noon and the vendors and public are requested to observe the starting time of 12 o clock which specifically targets those amateurs who normally work on Saturdays. Vendors are requested to co-operate in this matter by not arriving earlier than 12 o clock. For enquiries phone Bill van Zyl at 011 726-6807.

CETURION FLEA MARKET

The Centurion Amateur Radio Club will be holding a flea market starting 09:00 on December 1 at their club house at the corner of Duncan and Prospect streets.

Something to eat, cool drinks etc will be available.

All are welcome.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Ean Retief, ZS1PR reports as follows:

The past week was notable for it's rising solar flux and a quiet geomagnetic field. Propagation was good and reports of excellent DX, especially around sunrise was received.

Friday the 19th saw a number of solar flares. The first was a X1.6 just after three O'clock in the morning. The LASCO instrument on the SOHO spacecraft spotted the "halo" CME that accompanied the flare.

A halo-CME indicates that the ejected mass will approach the earth almost directly and that an impact is usually a given fact.

The effects are expected today. The geomagnetic field should be unsettled to active and reach minor storm levels from time to time. While it is expected that

propagation will degenerate at times, it should not be too bad overall. Routes via the polar regions may be affected severely.

After the first solar flare of Friday morning, three M-class flares occurred during the day. The day was rounded off by a X1,6 flare at sunset.

It is however expected that conditions will recover fairly quickly and that propagation should be virtually normal from tomorrow.

Also join us in the following activities: The President's Net on Sundays 12:00 on 7082 kHz; Amateur Radio Mirror International Sundays at 10:00 on 9750 and 21560 kHz which is repeated Mondays at 20:00 on 3215 kHz.

We thank all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organisations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins. This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by.....from . . .

You have been listening to ZS6SRL.

This bulletin now ends and Sarlnews wishes you a pleasant week.

Goodbye to all. /EX